

NEWS RELEASE

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Unlicensed Carlinville Chiropractor Pleads Guilty to Mail Fraud

Springfield, Illinois -- The United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, Rodger A. Heaton, announced that Amy Brown, wife of Thomas Brown, a Carlinville chiropractor, pleaded guilty today to two counts of mail fraud related to fraudulent billing of chiropractic services at her husband's clinic. U.S. Magistrate Judge Byron Cudmore scheduled Amy Brown's sentencing for May 12, 2006 at 2:30 p.m.

During today's court proceedings, Amy Brown admitted that in early 1997, she began seeing patients at Brown Chiropractic Clinic in Carlinville as if she were licensed to practice. Amy Brown was a graduate of Logan College of Chiropractic, but was never able to obtain a valid license to practice in the State of Illinois. Her husband, Thomas Brown was licensed by the State of Illinois in May 1996 as a Doctor of Chiropractic and operated Brown Chiropractic Clinic at 490 West Side Square in Carlinville.

Amy Brown admitted that she performed services on patients including back manipulations and related therapies. These services were then billed to Medicare, the Illinois Department of Public Aid (Medicaid), and to private insurance companies as if Thomas Brown was the provider of the services.

Amy Brown was charged with the offense in an information filed on November 17, 2005. Thomas Brown was also charged in an information and pled guilty on February 23, 2005, to two counts of mail fraud, and was sentenced on June 24, 2005, to a term of four months in prison to be followed by four months of home detention. U.S. District Judge Jeanne E. Scott further ordered that Brown pay restitution in the amount of \$53,267.72 and serve three years supervised release following confinement.

The charges resulted from an investigation by the Central Illinois Health Care Fraud Task Force which includes agents of the Illinois State Police Medicaid Fraud Control Bureau, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), United States Postal Inspection Service, the Illinois Attorney General's Office and the Illinois Department of Public Aid. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Bradley K. Hart of the Illinois Attorney General's Office and Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick D. Hansen prosecuted the cases.

The maximum statutory penalty for the offense of mail fraud is 20 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Brown may also be ordered to pay restitution. She remains free on bond pending sentencing.

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